

Message Text

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73

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06

SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 PA-01 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1228

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG

SUBJECT: LEADING NIGERIAN NEWSPAPER URGES OIL PRICE HIKE

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. FORCEFUL PRESENTATION OF NIGERIAN "UNOFFICIAL" POSITION ON OPEC OIL PRICING CARRIED IN SEPT. 17, 1975 NEW NIGERIAN, ONE OF TWO LARGEST CIRCULATION DAILIES IN COUNTRY. FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL ENTITLED "OPEC, THE WORLD AND US" STATES THAT COSTS OF GOOD FROM "UNDUSTRIALIZED OIL USER NATIONS OF WEST AND JAPAN" HAVE SPIRALED FOR LAST 20 MONTHS AND ARE "NOW ALMOST OUT OF SIGHT." PAPER URGES OPEC VIENNA SESSION TO IGNORE "FALSE CLAIM" THAT OIL PRICES ARE THREAT TO WESTERN INDUSTRIAL WORLD. PRESCRIPTION IS THAT FUTURE OIL PRICING BE TIED TO COST OF IMPORTS VIA INDEXING, PRODUCTION BE CUT BACK AT LEAST 25 PERCENT, CURRENT PRICES BE INCREASED NOT LESS THAN 35 PERCENT. CONTRARY VIEWS OF "SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT AND GULF SHEIKDOMS" ATTRIBUTED SOLELY TO OVERTURES OF SECRETARY SIMON AND "THE UBIQUITOUS KISSINGER."

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2. COMMENT: TONE AND CONTENT OF EDITORIAL WORTHY OF NOTE
AS NEWSPAPERS CAME UNDER FMG OWNERSHIP THIS MONTH. STANCE
RECOMMENDED BY NEWSPAPER IS CLEAREST AND MOST DEMANDING YET
PUBLICLY VOICED BY NATIONAL PRESS OR GOVERNMENT.

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EASUM

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